



## The Alliance for I-69 Texas

*Working to Better Connect Texas Communities and  
Create Economic Opportunities*

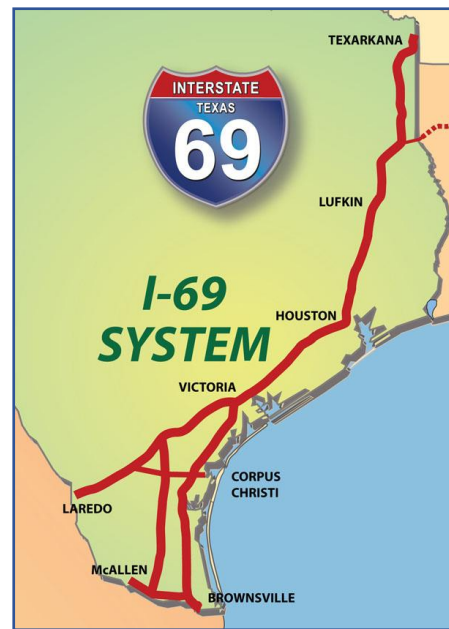
September 18, 2020

REF: Interim Charge 1B – House Transportation Committee

The Alliance for I-69 Texas appreciates the opportunity to provide the following comment to the Committee regarding highway funding. The Alliance is made up of cities, counties, economic development groups, RMAs and port authorities. I-69 in Texas covers more than 1,100 miles and is being developed as a series of incremental upgrades to existing highways. One-third of Texans live in the 30 counties along the I-69 System.

Despite the increase in funding made possible by voter approval of Proposition 1 and Proposition 7, Texas continues to face a serious highway funding gap. Completing the I-69 System alone will require billions of dollars over the next two decades. In that timeframe freight traffic is projected to nearly double and urban populations will grow dramatically, particularly in the communities along the Texas-Mexico border and in the greater Houston area.

The Alliance encourages the Legislature to ensure that the maximum amount of funding allowable through Prop 1 and Prop 7 are dedicated to transportation. Further, we urge lawmakers to provide TxDOT with as many project funding and financing tools as possible. Increased overall funding is necessary to sustain the construction buying power of traditional highway funding streams.



The Alliance supports adoption and reinstatement of innovative financing tools including toll supported managed lanes where they are viable and have strong local support. The current interest rate environment has created a window of opportunity for accelerating major projects that will benefit Texans years earlier than would otherwise be possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jennifer Shepard".

Jennifer Shepard  
Executive Director